



What is Upsilon Robotics?

Upsilon Robotics, LLC is a startup robotics company founded in upstate New York by an Excelsior Region FIRST Tech Challenge alumni. The guiding principles of Upsilon Robotics are to:

- Develop innovative, affordable robotic solutions for commercial or industrial use.
- Support young inventors and innovators who show interest in the creation and protection of new technologies.
- Provide mentorship and financial support for students and teams advocating for themselves.

What is the Upsilon Robotics Innovation Fund?

This fund provides financial support to New York Excelsior Region FIRST Tech Challenge teams. Awarded funds up to \$250 are used to **reimburse part costs, travel, or registration fees.**

As teams strategize for their season, financial barriers are a significant hurdle. Teams need to dedicate time to fundraise rather than innovate and develop components on their robot. The purpose of this fund is to reduce this hurdle.

Considerations Before Applying:

- Will the awarded funds unlock new learning opportunities and/or experiences for team members?
- Is the primary obstacle preventing the team from reaching its goal financial?
- Will the team miss out on valuable opportunities, experiences or lessons if the financial burden cannot be met?

Eligible Example Situations to Apply for the Upsilon Robotics Innovation Fund:

We are a community team with a limited budget wishing to learn more about the Viper-Slide Kit provided by GoBilda.

This year, our school drastically reduced the robotics club's budget and we can't afford the registration fees or lodging for our team.

For years, our team has been using the same set of omni wheels. We'd like to upgrade to mecanum wheels but haven't been able to fundraise enough to purchase.

Ineligible Situations to Apply for the Upsilon Robotics Innovation Fund:

We are a community team looking for backup or spare parts for our robot. (Spare parts will not unlock new opportunities for the team or its members.)

We are a fully sponsored team, but our sponsor can't pay our team's lodging. (As a fully sponsored team, the financial hurdle has already been significantly reduced.)



Upsilon Robotics Innovation Fund Submission Requirements and Process

Upsilon Robotics would like to make this application process as easy as possible. Team members should not spend more than 60-90 minutes dedicated to the submitted materials.

1. Submit a brief (300-500 word) document explaining: • Financial situation of the team • Use of the up to \$250 funding • Team goals this season Include BOM (bill of materials) showing what parts or resources would need to be reimbursed, or covered in the case of tournament registration. Add any applicable hyperlinks, or receipts. <i>Only purchases made on or after 9/7/24 are eligible.</i> Optional: Could include hand drawings, CAD, images, or videos of prototypes, etc. showing innovation. Please submit all applications to: William Boychuck at Upsilon Robotics (will@upsilon-robotics.com)	(45-60 minutes)
2. After initial review of the submission, an Upsilon Robotics representative will schedule - through the Coach- a video conference meeting with team member representatives.	
3. Short (10-15 minute) team member video conference interview with an Upsilon Robotics representative to discuss submitted materials. Interviews must be team member-led. Coaches/mentors are welcome to observe, or provide <u>limited</u> support.	(10-15 minutes)
4. Final review of submission by Upsilon's committee. Decision is shared with the Team Coach.	(within a week)
5. Upon submission approval, Team Coach will provide receipts to Mohawk Valley Community College (MVCC) to be reimbursed from the Upsilon Robotics Innovation Fund held with the MVCC Foundation. ~ Emailed to NY Excelsior PDP, Tina Betz (tbetz@mvcc.edu)	(within 3 weeks)



FAQ

Q: Where can applications be sent?

A: Please submit all applications to William Boychuck at Upsilon Robotics (will@upsilon-robotics.com).

Q: Can the fund be used to reimburse purchases already made by the team?

A: Any purchase made on or after September 7, 2024 is eligible for reimbursement if the team completes the other application requirements and submits receipts.

Q: We aren't sure if our project is eligible for reimbursement. Should we still apply?

A: The purpose of this fund is to help alleviate financial burdens. If there is a financial burden restricting innovation on your team, apply and Upsilon Robotics will do our best to help anyway we can.

Q: Can we apply multiple times?

A: Yes, however, team equity will be considered when submitting applications. If resources are limited, a team who has not received financial assistance will be prioritized over a team who already has.

Q: What additional information can we append to an application to increase the chances of approval?

A: The application process should be brief. However, more developed projects have a higher likelihood of approval. Applications including more optional information, such as CAD, images and videos of prototypes, etc. are more likely to be approved.

Q: How much is a reasonable amount to ask for when submitting an application?

A: Keep costs in mind when applying. Applications including parts or resources not directly related to the innovation or experience will likely require edits before approval. Regardless of total cost, Upsilon Robotics will try their best to help teams achieve their innovation or experience goal.

Q: Who is the contact person for more information on this fund?

A: Please contact William Boychuck at Upsilon Robotics (will@upsilon-robotics.com) or NY Excelsior PDP, Tina Betz (tbetz@mvcc.edu) for more information.